

60130-1026
01MRA0140

REMARKS

Applicant has made several changes to the specification. These changes are in no way related to any objection or rejection. Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are currently pending and claims 3 and 21-26 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-20 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claims 1, 11 and 19 have been amended to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically the claims now include the limitation of an inner and outer surface concentric about an axis and a spirally shaped cavity defined between the inner surface and the outer surface.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 3,690,639 to Brandon et al. (Brandon). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of a groove for varying a resistance depending on a direction of relative movement between an inner and an outer surface. Brandon includes a slot (13a) that provides for the application of a radial preload. The slot (13a) does not provide any modification to resistance of relative movement between an inner and outer surface and therefore does not meet the limitation of amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 includes limitations not disclosed or suggested by Brandon; therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 11, and 16-18 were rejected as being obvious over Brandon in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,900,182 to Hinks (Hinks). Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitation of a metal sheet including a groove for varying a resistance depending on a direction of movement between the inner surface and the outer surface. The combination of Brandon and Hinks does not disclose or suggest these limitations. For this reason, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11, and 16-18.

Claims 7-10 and 12-15 were indicated as being allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 12 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner

60130-1026
01MRA0140

is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



JOHN M. SIRAGUSA
Registration No. 46,174
Attorneys for Applicant
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: May 17, 2004